



# Morrington Peninsula Landcare Network News

September 2018 Edition



*Volunteers from across the peninsula brave the wet forecast at Planet Ark's 'National Tree Day' hosted by the Morrington Peninsula Landcare Network & Morrington Toyota at a GB2AS property*

Greetings Landcare members & associates,

Congratulations again to Main Creek Catchment and SW Morrington Peninsula Landcare groups for not only getting DELWP Landcare grants but for being finalists in the 'Keep Australia Beautiful' awards under the 'Protection of the Environment' category! Good luck to both groups. I encourage anyone with Capeweed to contact Akane Uesugi from Deakin (see p 9). In addition, I recommend all groups apply for the Volunteer grant as we've had nearly 100% success with this grant in the past (see p. 13).

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, with its articles on kangaroos and blue ants! Many thanks to Greg Holland for his content and editing. His assistance is very much appreciated.

Warm Regards,  
Jacqui Salter, Landcare Facilitator for MPLN [Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au)

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## 1. Opportunities & News

### *Update from J. Salter, Landcare Facilitator*

It's been great to see so many committee members coming along to our capacity building workshops. The next one is for 'Environmental Project Design' with Gidja Walker on Tues 11<sup>th</sup> September 9am – 3pm in Meeting Room 2, Rosebud Shire Offices. I recently attended a Landcare Facilitators forum organised by the PPWCMA. The PPWCMA submitted five 'Smart Farming' proposals, none of which were successful. PPWCMA submitted a Regional Land Partnerships tender for a total in the order of ~ \$20M, which included Core services, 6 ranked project designs, and 12 ranked project proposals.

To date the PPWCMA has agreement for the core services at a reduced amount, 5 years of funding for one project ('Three Great Ramsar Wetlands'), and 1 year of funding for two projects ('Smart farming for Western Port' and 'The Great HeHo Escape'). Assuming the two latter projects are funded for five years each, the total value is about \$8.4M, roughly 25% down on the PPWCMA's NLP Phase 1 package of ~\$12M. This has had implications for PPWCMA staffing, going from 20 positions (17.2 FTE) in mid 2017-18, to 15 positions (~13 FTE) as from 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

We were updated on DELWP's 'Biodiversity Response Planning' grants. Unfortunately, MPLN was not successful with our application for Dunns Creek Biolink. See [here](#) for a list of successful applicants. The PPWCMA are organising a series of training sessions for Landcare Facilitators, including 'Starting & Revitalising groups', 'Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge' and 'Project Planning'. These topics were selected following a survey of all Landcare Facilitators. A representative from Melbourne Water updated us about their 'Healthy Waterway Strategy'. Comments on their draft plan closed 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Their final draft strategy will be submitted to the Minister in September.

Susi Johnson from Landcare Victoria provided a comprehensive update of what LVI is currently focussing on. Landcare Victoria Inc. exists to support Member Groups on a number of key issues including: incorporation & insurance, advocacy & partnerships and information & advice. She highlighted that under the new LVI Code of Conduct Rules (17.15), each Member Group is required to have a documented code of conduct which covers child safety, bullying, sexual harassment, and respect.

If a Member Group has failed to address breaches of the code of conduct by its members, then this can be grounds for disciplinary action under Rule 14.

Lastly, Scott Watson from VicRoads addressed the group regarding VicRoad's recent directive towards best environmental practice. They have re-established a VicRoads Environment Roadside Committee following advocacy from environmental groups. It is formed of representatives from DELWP, Municipalities and environmental experts including Randall Robinson, Public Land Advocacy Network and Landcare (Kaye Rodden from Landcare Victoria [nidgee@reachnet.com.au](mailto:nidgee@reachnet.com.au)).

John Robinson, DELWP, provided an update on the Victorian Landcare Facilitator program. Contracts for all 78 facilitators end 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. No information on what will happen beyond this date.

### **Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink – Update from Chantal Kelly**



*One of our participating properties which has converted their dam into a wetland with indigenous plants. This will provide valuable habitat to aquatic dependent species, and we look forward to*

The 'Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink' has made tremendous progress, with 16,000+ indigenous plants planted on private property since the project's inception. With the project's planting almost completed, the focus for this month will be continued weed control activities in remnant bushland and our spring fox control program. Nest boxes will also be ordered for installation on properties without hollow bearing trees to provide valuable habitat for hollow dependent species. Our 21 participating

landholders will also receive their 'Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Participating Property' roadside signage to help promote this wonderful project at street level.

*Chisholm TAFE Certificate III students after a very productive day at two biolink properties, Thursday 15th August.*



The 'Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink' is delivered by the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network and the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority through funding provided by the state government's 'Our Catchments Our Communities' initiative.

- Chantal Kelly, Project Coordinator, GB2AS [gb2as@mplandcare.org.au](mailto:gb2as@mplandcare.org.au) phone: 0410 764 732.

## **Reminder! Like @mplandcare Facebook page**

Please 'Like' the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network Facebook page (@mplandcare) and choose to receive notifications to keep up to date with Landcare-related news.

<https://www.facebook.com/Mornington-Peninsula-Landcare-Network-958968857459004/>

## **Fact Sheets on Nest box Use and Monitoring**

The Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research also has released two new fact sheets on nest box use and monitoring:

- A general guide on the installation and use of nest boxes for conservation purposes  
[https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0024/328191/Nest-box-fact-sheet-general-guide.pdf](https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/328191/Nest-box-fact-sheet-general-guide.pdf)
- An how-to on monitoring, recording and maintaining nest boxes:  
[https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/328193/Nest-box-fact-sheet-monitoring-data.pdf](https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/328193/Nest-box-fact-sheet-monitoring-data.pdf)

**Additional** Arthur Rylah Institute news and publications may be found at:

<https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/publications> and <https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/about-us/ari-eneews>

## **2. State of the Environment**

### **What is rubbish and what is recycling? Test yourself with this quiz.**



When it comes to recycling, it's easy to get confused about what can and can't go into which colourful kerbside bin. Thanks to SWAMP Landcare member Mary Waterman for passing on this test:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-18/quiz-what-is-rubbish-what-is-recycling/9999690>

## **Declaration of the Feral Cat as a Pest Animal in Victoria**

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio has announced the declaration of the feral cat as an established pest animal on specified Crown land in Victoria under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

The declaration applies to areas of Crown land managed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Park and the four Alpine Resort Management Boards.

Feral cat control will be implemented by department and agency staff, and their agents, ensuring efforts are targeted to protect the threatened wildlife most at risk of predation by feral cats. A code of practice

will be developed in consultation with animal welfare organisations to guide and develop best practice for feral cat management.

Feral cats will not be declared as a pest animal on private land, meaning farmers and other private landholders will not be required to control feral cats. Private land owners will still be able to manage cats roaming on their property in accordance with current laws.



Recreational hunters will not be permitted to hunt feral cats on Crown land, unless they are accredited volunteers operating in control programs managed by Parks Victoria or the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Feral cats are estimated to kill 466 million reptiles and 272 million birds in Australia every year.

**Media release:** go to <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/feral-cats-declared-as-a-pest-animal-in-victoria/>

**More information:** go to <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/invasive-plants-and-animals/feral-cats>

- Jacqui Salter – Image of cat with Bandicoot from Sarah Maclagan

### ***And while we are on Cats: They don't just kill with their claws and teeth.***

Toxoplasmosis is a disease arising from infection by a parasite (*Toxoplasma gondii*). This parasite can reproduce sexually only in felids (all cats), but can then go on to infect any warm-blooded animal, where it can reproduce asexually by splitting. Initial transmission is via the cat's urine or faeces, which may include eating grass that has been urinated on by a cat. Once infected, an intermediate host may pass the parasite onto other hosts through, for example: blood, the mother's womb, eating raw meat, and handling faeces. Around half of all humans are infected. There is no cure available for Australia.

In healthy adults with robust immune systems, the parasite rarely has any effect. But young animals (including foetuses) are highly susceptible. Toxoplasmosis has been found to be causing substantial reductions in native animal populations in Tasmania (ABC 2018). Interestingly, the parasite also affects the brain in a manner that makes the animal less afraid of cats, and thus more susceptible to predation. Infected animals display symptoms of erratic movements, body weakness, apparent blindness and respiratory distress. Other signs include lack of appetite, docility and a tendency for nocturnal animals to be unnaturally observed during daylight hours.

The disease is also a significant problem for sheep and goat farmers: in Tasmania sheep losses as high as 20% have been reported (ABC 2018). A study at the University of South Australia estimated sheep losses in South Australia at \$70 million (ABC 2017).

#### **References:**

ABC 2017: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2017-02-07/toxoplasmosis-costs-south-australian-sheep-producers/8245676>

ABC 2018: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-09/toxoplasmosis-killing-tasmanian-wildlife/10093038>

- Greg Holland

## Have your say: Alternatives to the Proposed Freeway through Tootgarook Swamp

The Mornington Peninsula Shire is working to unlock congestion on the southern Peninsula, through alternatives to running a freeway through the environmentally and culturally significant Tootgarook Wetlands (the large unbuilt area in arrowed in the image). You are now invited to provide your thoughts on the resulting preliminary investigation report (see URL at end).



A 50-year-old 'Public Use Zone and Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO)' provides for a freeway through Tootgarook.

Save Tootgarook Swamp Inc. have been directly involved with the goal of arriving at viable

solutions that retain the 590-hectare Tootgarook Swamp as the largest remaining Shallow Freshwater Marsh in the entire Western Port and Port Phillip Bay region. Past actions have destroyed, modified, and drained the others. The swamp contains many ecological communities with at least 464 species (not including invertebrates), of which the following have significant biodiversity values:

- Five matters of environmental significance under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC)
- Nine species listed under migratory agreements
- Under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act of 1988 (FFG), Tootgarook has:
  - o Two Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVCs) listed as threatened
  - o 10 endangered species and another eight near threatened and vulnerable species
- Six EVCs are listed in Victoria as significant and endangered
- One endangered and seven rare plants are found in the swamp.

This list does not include regionally significant data (species that are heading towards extinction on the Mornington Peninsula but are not threatened elsewhere).

All agree that we need to reduce traffic levels on the southern peninsula and solve some localized congestion issues. However, inviting more traffic to the southern peninsula by decreasing travel times from Melbourne will only increase congestion. Reducing the number of day trippers using Nepean Peninsula roads in peak season can be achieved by using a smarter traffic system that splits traffic up based on destination, with better traffic flow designed on the existing road networks. The figure provides some examples.



Figure 2: Alternative Routes between Rosebud and Portsea

Alternative options could include a ferry servicing Melbourne, Frankston and Portsea. Save Tootgarook Swamp Inc. believe rail is not an option, as there simply is not enough land on the Southern Peninsula.

**Please do have your say - Community consultation is open and closes 5pm Monday 15 October 2018**

You can also email a submission to: [haveyoursay@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:haveyoursay@mornpen.vic.gov.au) with the subject line 'Southern Peninsula Traffic Investigation'.

More information is at:

[www.savetootgarookswamp.org](http://www.savetootgarookswamp.org)

PowerPoint presentation at:

<https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=E8D6D95B3A28352D!363936&ithint=file%2cpptx&app=PowerPoint&authkey=!AIjrRTUm2w9tQ2Y>

**The following document is recommended for reading prior to undertaking the survey, as it contains information on the options:** <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Have-your-say/Have-Your-Say-Southern-Peninsula-Traffic-Investigation>

- Collated by Jacqui Salter and Greg Holland from the above sources.

**Landcare, Riparian Activities and Similar Expenses for Primary Producers – Can you Claim Tax Rebates?**

A fact sheet has been developed by DELWP which helps to clarify how riparian management works fit into the formal ATO definition of Landcare activities. For example, many of us think of riparian revegetation as a Landcare type of activity. However, it is NOT considered a Landcare expense for tax purposes.

Regarding typical on-ground riparian works:

- fencing, water infrastructure and ongoing weed management are immediately deductible,
- initial site prep, weed control and revegetation may be added to a landholder's capital gains tax cost base, but are not immediately deductible.

Note - the above applies to riparian activities undertaken at the landholder's expense, not when funded by a CMA. See fact sheet for detailed information.

**Further Information:**

- Link to factsheet <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/view.htm?docid=afs/landcare>
- Developed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's (DELWP) Waterway Health Team worked with the ATO to develop the fact sheet in collaboration with Basalt to Bay Landcare Network
- For additional ATO information on Landcare operations go to <https://www.ato.gov.au/business/primary-producers/in-detail/capital-expenditure/landcare-operations/>

### 3. Monthly Features

#### Article of the Month: *Eucalyptus*, A Novel

“There was once a man on a property outside a one-horse town, in New South Wales, who couldn’t come to a decision about his daughter. He then made an unexpected decision. Incredible!...To this day it’s still talked about, its effects still felt in the town and surrounding districts.”

“All around, the earth had a geological camel-look: slowly rearing brown, calloused and blotched with shadows, which appeared to sway in the heat, and an overwhelming air of patience.”

With introductory paragraphs like that, I, for one, was hooked. And I was not disappointed.

This is a surreal story about Australian life on the land.

At one level it is a fairy tale of princes and princesses, of Scheherazade in One Thousand and One Nights, of Rapunzel in her tower. At another, it is about the weird mob that made Australia what it is today.

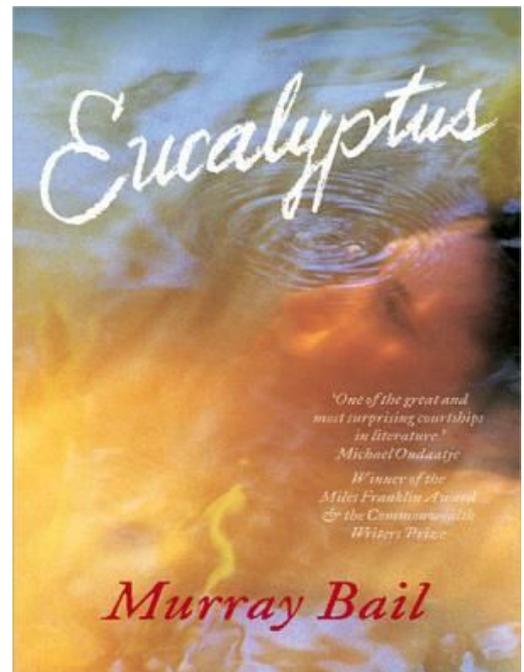
But it also is about eucalypts. The tale opens with *E. Obliqua*, our beloved messmate, and finishes with *E. confluens* from way up in the Kimberly Ranges.

The father has collected seeds and grown a plantation of every species of our iconic plant. Anyone who can successfully name every one may seek his daughter’s hand in marriage! Characters come and go, a gentleman who gradually names every plant, a strange story teller, a twist on how best to name all the plants, and a young girl coming of age who makes her own choice in the end.

It can be difficult to read in places, but the effort is very much worth the effort. Aside from the many brilliantly surreal passages, you will learn how to impress everyone with your knowledge of gum trees. Image at the next party being able to say: Ah yes, the dear little *desertum* “more like a bush than a tree; has hardly a trunk at all; just several stems sprouting at ground level, stunted and itchy looking” - but a loveable little thing nevertheless.

Bail, M., 1999: *Eucalyptus*, A Novel. Harcourt, New York, 255 pp. ISBN 0 15 600781 9. (Winner of both the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize and the Miles Franklin Award and available from Booktopia).

- Article by Greg Holland



## Weed of the Month: Capeweed Research Program

Spring is sprung and the capeweed are already occupying every neglected spot.

Akane Uesugi, a research fellow at Monash University, studying invasive plant ecology, is working with capeweed to understand how invasive plants expand their ranges, and what facilitates or constrains their spread.

Akane is hoping to collect Capeweed samples (including leaf, roots, and seed) from the Peninsula this coming spring, and is looking for landholders willing to have her to collect capeweed from their paddocks. The sampling will take less than 30-min with minimal disturbance to the land. They will even remove some weeds! Around 2-3 sampling locations are needed.

Please email Akane at [akane.uesugi@monash.edu](mailto:akane.uesugi@monash.edu) and cc [Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au) if you are happy for samples to be collected from your property.

And to remind you of the issues with capeweeds, here is an updated version of an article that appeared in the newsletter a year and a half ago;

**Species name:** *Arctotheca calendula*

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Origin:** The Cape of Good Hope (hence its common name).

**Status:** Widespread invasive weed that will choke out large areas of pasture given the opportunity.

**Growth Habit:** Capeweed is an herbaceous annual that grows as a low growing rosette of heavily lobed leaves, the undersides of which are covered with woolly down. As a seedling it is fairly inconspicuous, but in late winter to early summer it increases markedly in size and develops a profusion of large yellow daisy flowers. It dies off over the summer, leaving bare patches in pastures and lawns.

It prefers sandy soils and loams.

**Reproduction:** By seed, which is produced in copious amounts – over 4,000 seeds per plant.

**Dispersal:** Capeweed is spread by birds and animals, in hay, and as a contaminant on vehicles and machinery. Prevention methods include washing all machinery, especially from contractors before they enter the property.



**Toxicity:** These weeds accumulate high levels of nitrates, which may cause nitrate and/or nitrite poisoning of stock. Stressed and starved stock are most susceptible.

**Control Methods:** The best ways to avoid capeweed infestations are to keep pastures vigorous and healthy and to avoid leaving bare patches. Subclover, or perennial grasses are particularly effective. Once established, an integrated combination of chemical and non-chemical control should be applied. This should be done in combination with neighbours as the seeds spread easily.

Note that once the flowers have appeared in spring it is too late - be sure to tackle the weeds from autumn to spring.

For pastures, a program of heavy grazing is an effective approach. Light grazing worsens the problem as stock prefer the more palatable grasses, thus removing capeweed competition. Slashing or cultivation to expose the root between autumn and spring also can be effective.

For lawns, grubbing is an excellent method, perhaps supplemented by spot spraying with glyphosate.

**Similar Plants:** Capeweeds are quite distinctive, but may be confused with a variety of other plants with rosettes and daisy-like flowers. Examples include dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*) and flatweeds (*Hypochoeris radicata*). It also is easy to confuse with another troublesome weed, Indian hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium orientale*) when young.

**Further reading:** [www.herbiguide.com.au/Descriptions/hg\\_Capeweed.htm](http://www.herbiguide.com.au/Descriptions/hg_Capeweed.htm)

- Article and images by Greg Holland and Jacqui Salter.

## 4. Newsletter Feedback

Do you have a story to tell? Is there a weed, plant, fungus, slime mould, or animal that you want to know about? Have you identified a new, rare, or interesting species? Or a good book? Please contact [greg@carranya.net](mailto:greg@carranya.net) for it to be featured in the newsletter.

## 5. Upcoming Events

Description	Time & Date	Location	RSVP date	Contact
MCCLG Working Bee.	Sat 8 Sept 9:30 – 11:30am	Koala Reserve, Somers. Enter Via Campsie Court	n/a	Malcolm Allchin 0423 288 185 <a href="mailto:chatsworthgrp@optusnet.com.au">chatsworthgrp@optusnet.com.au</a> Bring gloves, sturdy shoes & weather appropriate clothing
Sheepwash Creek Catchment working bee	Sun 9 Sept 09:30-11:30 am	Collins Rd Dromana (opposite Holiday Village)	Essential to get gate code!	Michelle de la Coeur <a href="mailto:mdelacoeur@gmail.com">mdelacoeur@gmail.com</a>
Kids 'Learn to draw animals with Terry Denton' hosted by BERG \$10 cash donation on day for materials	Sat 22 Sept 11 am-11.45am or 1pm - 1.45pm	Old Campground, Balcombe Estuary Reserve, Mirang Ave Mt Martha	ASAP	Apply <a href="#">here</a> One child (aged 7-14) per Family member of BERG Mt Martha can attend. Join BERG <a href="#">here</a>
Landcare/VFF Dinner	Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct evening	The New Atrium, Safety Beach	TBC	Details coming. Save the date.



# Morn Pen Farmer

## Discussion Group

The next Morn Pen Farmer Discussion Group will be held at Woolumbi Farm.



Kenneth and Sonya Neff, owners of Woolumbi Farm, will be our host & will be talking about his Wessex Saddleback pigs, including breeding, genetics, management and welfare of pig keeping, and their role in the management of their organic pastures.

We will have a farm walk to view the pigs and the property setup – **please ensure you have a set of sterilised gumboots and fresh clean clothes to comply with biosecurity requirements.**

### Save the Dates:

6<sup>th</sup> October: Coranderrk

10<sup>th</sup> November: Peninsula Honey

1<sup>st</sup> December: growing grains on the Peninsula - Tuerong

**Where:** Woolumbi Farm

233 Coolart Rd, Tyabb

<https://goo.gl/maps/ugxyrShruQu>

**When:** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Time:** 9am morning tea, 9:30am to 12noon

*Please park up behind the sheds on the gravel hardstand, to leave the carpark free for Saturday customers.*

Please RSVP by Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Sep to Anna Roach  
0404 681995 or [anna.roach@gmail.com](mailto:anna.roach@gmail.com)



*This project is supported by Western Port Catchment Landcare Network through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program*

# Environmental Upgrade Finance information session



Environmental Upgrade Finance (EUF) provides long-term low interest loans to businesses to fund energy and water efficiency upgrades and install renewable energy. These upgrades create jobs for installers, protect businesses from rising electricity prices, free up cash flow for businesses and improve the conditions for building occupants.

**Come along to this information session to find out how this program could benefit your business and your clients.**

**5.30 – 7pm, Thursday 20 September  
Mornington Library,  
Vancouver St, Mornington**

**Bookings essential. Please book on Eventbrite:**  
[eventbrite.com/e/find-out-how-environmental-upgrade-finance-can-benefit-your-business](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/find-out-how-environmental-upgrade-finance-can-benefit-your-business)

**Or contact Christine Gross from Sustainable Melbourne Fund:**  
[Christine.Gross@sustainablemelbournefund.com.au](mailto:Christine.Gross@sustainablemelbournefund.com.au)  
9658 7853

**Who should attend?**  
Installers of renewable energy, water efficiency products or energy efficiency products.

## What you will learn?

- What Environmental Upgrade Finance (EUF) is and the range of environmental upgrades that can be installed using EUF.
- How it works and what organisations are involved.
- Examples of local environmental upgrades installed using EUF.
- How to introduce the idea of EUF to your clients.

Nine businesses on the Mornington Peninsula have signed up for EUF in the last 18 months and installed over 800 kW of solar and a range of energy efficiency measures.



**For more information, please contact:**

**Christine Gross**  
[Christine.Gross@sustainablemelbournefund.com.au](mailto:Christine.Gross@sustainablemelbournefund.com.au)  
9658 7853

**Nicci Tsernjavski**  
[Nicci.Tsernjavski@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:Nicci.Tsernjavski@mornpen.vic.gov.au)  
5950 1000

## 6. Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network Grants Guide Sept 2018

Name of Grant	Date due	Amount	Details
Community Volunteer Grant	18 Sept	\$5000	<a href="https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/volunteer-grants-2018">https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/volunteer-grants-2018</a>
Norman Wettenhall Foundation	Open: 18 Sept, 11 Dec	\$5,000 or \$5,000-\$25,000.	<a href="https://wettenhall.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/">https://wettenhall.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/</a>
Australian ethical community grants	TBA upon registration	TBA upon registration	<a href="https://www.australianethical.com.au/community-grants/">https://www.australianethical.com.au/community-grants/</a>
MP Shire Flexigrant	All year	Up to \$1000	<a href="http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/our_shire/community_grants">http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/our_shire/community_grants</a>
FNCV Environment Fund	TBA upon registration	Up to \$1000	<a href="http://www.fncv.org.au/environment-fund/">http://www.fncv.org.au/environment-fund/</a>
RACV	All year	Up to \$2000	<a href="https://www.racv.com.au/about-racv/our-business/community-involvement/community-support.html">https://www.racv.com.au/about-racv/our-business/community-involvement/community-support.html</a>
Ross Trust	All year	Up to \$20,000	<a href="http://www.rosstrust.org.au/grants/apply-for-a-grant/">http://www.rosstrust.org.au/grants/apply-for-a-grant/</a>
EPA Inspiring Environmental Solutions community funding program	All year	Around \$25,000 to \$100,000.	<a href="http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/programs/inspiring-environmental-solutions">http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/programs/inspiring-environmental-solutions</a>
John T Reid Charitable Trust	All year	Not specified	<a href="http://www.johntreidtrusts.com.au/whatwefund">http://www.johntreidtrusts.com.au/whatwefund</a>
Melbourne Water Stream Frontage Grant	All year	Variable	<a href="https://www.melbournewater.com.au/">https://www.melbournewater.com.au/</a>
Canon Oceana Environmental Grants	Ongoing	\$11,000	<a href="https://www.canon.com.au/about-canon/community/environmental-grants">https://www.canon.com.au/about-canon/community/environmental-grants</a>
Sidney Myer Foundation	Ongoing	Not specified	<a href="http://myerfoundation.org.au/grants/sustainability-environment/">http://myerfoundation.org.au/grants/sustainability-environment/</a>
Colonial Foundation	Ongoing	Not specified	<a href="http://www.colonialfoundation.org.au/4330926/colonial-foundation-trust-grant-program.htm">http://www.colonialfoundation.org.au/4330926/colonial-foundation-trust-grant-program.htm</a>
Greenfleet	Ongoing	Can be substantial	<a href="https://www.greenfleet.com.au/">https://www.greenfleet.com.au/</a>

## 7. Local Information

### *Shire Nursery*

Open Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm and first Saturday each month 9.00am-1.00pm. The Shire Nursery specialises in indigenous and native plants. Ph: 5974-8417, email [nursery@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:nursery@mornpen.vic.gov.au)

### *Eco Living Display Centre*

Open: Fridays 1-4pm & first Saturday each month 9.00am-1.00pm. For activities and workshops visit [www.mornpen.vic.gov.au](http://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au) or contact the Renewable Resources department on 5950-1259.

### *Advice on Removing Native Vegetation*

For assistance and advice in relation to the removal of native vegetation, please contact [nativevegetation.support@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:nativevegetation.support@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### **Home Harvest exchange**

Too many lemons and not enough parsley? Why not take part in a Home Harvest Exchange? This community initiative allows people to bring their own excess produce and go home with someone else's for free! Bring home grown edibles, eggs, preserved produce, honey, seeds and seedlings. No minimum amount and no money changes hands.

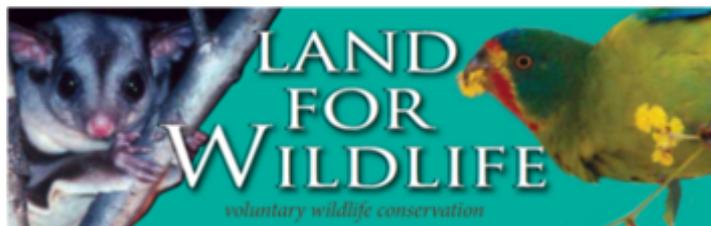
<b>Mornington</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat of the month; 2pm - 3pm Dig It, Mornington Community Garden, Mitchell St, Mornington. (Melways Reference: 145 D3)	<b>Rosebud</b> Last Saturday of the month; 2-3pm Rosebud Community Garden, Lawson Park, Leon Av, Rosebud. (Melways Reference: 170 F2)	<b>Mount Martha</b> First Saturday each month 3-4pm The Briars, 450 Nepean Hwy, Mt Martha.
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### **Land for Wildlife**

If you wish to create or protect wildlife habitats on your property, then the Land for Wildlife scheme can offer advice and assistance no matter whether you manage a farm, a bush block, a council park or school ground.

Landholder participation is free and membership doesn't alter the legal status of your property in any way. A Land for Wildlife sign is provided free of charge to acknowledge the efforts being made for wildlife conservation

**More info, contact:** Peter Johnson Statewide Coordinator and Newsletter Editor Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Box 3100, Bendigo Delivery Centre Bendigo, 3554 Victoria, Australia Tel: (03) 5430 4358 Fax: (03) 5448 4982  
peter.johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au  
<https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/protecting-wildlife/land-for-wildlife>



## **8. Contacts**

- **Jacqui Salter**, Landcare Facilitator, MPLN  
[Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.salter@mornpen.vic.gov.au) ph: 0408 213 079
- **Greg Holland**: Newsletter Editor [greg@carranya.net](mailto:greg@carranya.net)
- **David Maddocks**, President of MPLN  
[david.maddocks@bigpond.com](mailto:david.maddocks@bigpond.com) ph: 0429 990 518
- **Michele Sabto**, Project Coordinator for 'Linking the Mornington Peninsula Landscape' project  
[linkingmplandscape@yahoo.com.au](mailto:linkingmplandscape@yahoo.com.au)
- **Chantal Kelly**, project coordinator for 'Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink' project:  
[chantalkelly77@gmail.com](mailto:chantalkelly77@gmail.com)
- **Sarah Saxton**, MP Shire Agribusiness & Food Industry Officer, [sarah.saxton@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.saxton@mornpen.vic.gov.au)
- **Paul Hodgson**, Melbourne Water River Health Officer, [paul.hodgson@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:paul.hodgson@melbournewater.com.au) ph: 9679 7054
- **Briars Nursery**, Nepean Hwy Mt. Martha, Tel. 5974 8417 Email [nursery@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:nursery@mornpen.vic.gov.au)
- **Wildlife Help on the Mornington Peninsula (WHOMP)** All hours 0417 380 687 0417 395 883
- **Animalia Shelter**, 0435 822 699 All hours [www.animaliawildlife.org.au](http://www.animaliawildlife.org.au)
- **Crystal Ocean Wildlife Shelter (Rye)** - [crystal\\_ocean2003@yahoo.com.au](mailto:crystal_ocean2003@yahoo.com.au) 0407 787 770



## 9. Image(s) at the end

As spring peeps through the winter gloom, a flash of blue announces a superb fairy wren in his breeding plumage. Soon we shall see those plain-white cattle egrets sprouting bright orange/red feathers and turning into the punk rockers of the bird world.

The reasons for this sudden show of colour are well-established. She is looking for a partner who can readily demonstrate the strength and fitness the genes that he will pass on to her offspring. He wants to maximise the chances of passing on those genes.



By adding distinctive colours, these males are flouting their presence, bravery, manhood, strength – choose whichever impresses.

But colour alone may not suffice. The little wren in the picture leaped up to display himself the tallest twig and chatter his willingness to do battle. He is demonstrating to his tribe, and the little lady hidden in the undergrowth, his willingness to protect the brood against all comers.

She has to spend considerable time on the nest, so subtlety is the go. But even here evolution plays a part. A recent study by Medina et al (2017) found that fairy wren females adopt coloration that provides the best camouflage for their nesting herbage. Change the herbage and the colour changes.

Us blokes are not immune to these pressures. One does not have to go far back in time to find the upper-class males all dandied up to impress the ladies. Some even copy the cattle egrets! On a recent trip to northern India I was surprised to see how many males used henna to dye their hair a bright orange. Here, however, the jury is out on impressing the ladies, as a couple of ladies I spoke to expressed their disgust at this silly habit!



**Reference:** Madina, I., et al, 2017: Habitat structure is linked to the evolution of plumage colour in female, but not male, fairy wrens. *BMC Evolutionary Biology*, 17:35. DOI 10.1186/s12862-016-0861-3.

- Article and bird images by Greg Holland, Indian image from Nisa and Ulli Maher.